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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Information

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

September 28 - October 5, 1989

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# News Releases

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## **FGIS RELEASES PRELIMINARY SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT QUALITY REPORT**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—In response to industry and public requests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has released the 1989 Preliminary New Crop Soft Red Winter Wheat Inspection Data.

This condensed report contains factor average tables for soft red winter wheat and a form for ordering the final, comprehensive 1989 U.S. Wheat Crop Quality Report.

FGIS publishes the U.S. Wheat Quality Crop Report annually. The report describes the condition of the portion of the new crop that was officially inspected during a 4-week period following the start of local harvests throughout the country, and estimates the overall quality of the U.S. wheat crop.

"The development of the preliminary report was in response to a growing interest for specific information as soon as it becomes available," said W. Kirk Miller, FGIS administrator. "We hope to better meet the needs of the industry and the public by providing this critical data on a timely basis."

To obtain copies of the FGIS 1989 Preliminary New Crop Soft Red Winter Wheat Inspection Data, contact Keith Sanders, FGIS Standards and Procedures Branch, (202) 475-3891.

Dana Blatt (202) 382-0378

#

## **USDA TO OFFER HVI COTTON CLASSING NATIONWIDE**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—In response to grower requests, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it will offer instrument cotton classification in every cotton producing state this year. Jesse F. Moore, director of the cotton division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said this marks the first time that high volume instrument (HVI) classing will be used in Arizona and California. HVI classing is a series of

precision instrument tests which evaluate cotton fiber properties for quality.

The cotton harvesting and classing season, which begins in late July in certain parts of the country and continues until the following March, reaches its peak during October and November. The cotton harvesting and classing seasons for Arizona and California begin in October.

USDA currently offers both the traditional manual classing and HVI classing on a user-fee basis. However, "most textile manufacturers prefer to buy cotton classed by HVI because it gives them more of the information they need for efficient spinning and weaving," Moore said. "Consequently, more growers are electing to use HVI, even though it costs 50 cents more per bale than manual classing, because it gives them a marketing advantage with manufacturers," he added.

Unlike the manual classing method, which gauges only length, color, trash and fineness, HVI measures all these factors plus the strength and length uniformity of cotton fibers, traits that are important to manufacturers in assessing how a particular bale of cotton will perform during the spinning process. "By eliminating this guesswork, mills can operate at a much higher rate of efficiency," Moore said.

About 10 percent of the predicted 3 million bales produced in Arizona and California will be HVI classed this year, Moore said. Though not an exceptionally high percentage, this represents a significant turnaround in a region which in the past was reluctant to use instrument classing," he said.

Nationwide, 45 percent of the 1989 cotton crop will be classed using HVI, only a slight increase over 1988. Adverse weather has caused a decline in West Texas cotton production, historically the area of strongest HVI interest, making the national percentage lower than it would be in average production years, Moore said.

"HVI has become so important to the cotton industry that the Advisory Committee on Cotton Marketing—made up of industry representatives—has recommended that HVI evaluation be mandatory for cotton to be eligible for the Commodity Credit Corporation loan program beginning in 1991," he said. USDA has agreed to adopt this recommendation.

George Clarke (202) 447-8998

#

## **FGIS INITIATES NEW AFLATOXIN TESTING PROCEDURES**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service next week will begin using newly approved, commercially available aflatoxin testing kits in place of current methods.

Starting Oct. 1, FGIS will begin replacing the Holaday-Velasco (HV) minicolumn and thin-layer chromatography (TLC) methods that currently determine the presence of aflatoxin in corn with the new kits at FGIS field office service points.

To fulfill current domestic and export contract requirements, FGIS will continue testing, upon request, for aflatoxin in corn using the HV minicolumn and TLC tests for an interim period. After April 1, 1990, FGIS will discontinue using these tests at field locations and begin exclusive use of one or more of the newly approved methods.

HV minicolumn and TLC testing methods will continue to be available at the FGIS Commodity Testing Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

Contacts: Lewis Lebakken Jr., (202) 475-3428 (technical information); Dana Blatt, (202) 382-0378 (media).

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1990 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM PROVISIONS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced a 10-percent acreage reduction (ARP) for 1990 crop corn, grain sorghum and barley and a 5-percent ARP for 1990 crop oats.

The 1990 ARP levels are the same as were announced for the 1989 crop.

For crops covered by the 10-percent ARP, Yeutter said "Beginning stocks should be adequate to maintain our competitive position in the world market, while providing adequate supplies at reasonable prices to our domestic feed grain consumers.

"The oats ARP," he said, "was set at a different rate than corn and barley in 1988 and 1989. We are doing this again in 1990 to make oats planting more competitive."

Other provisions of the 1990 feed grain program are:

—Target prices established per bushel are \$2.75 for corn, \$2.61 for sorghum (\$4.66 per hundredweight), \$2.36 for barley and \$1.45 for oats.

—Loan and purchase rates per bushel are \$1.57 for corn, \$1.49 for sorghum (\$2.66 per hundredweight), \$1.28 for barley, \$0.81 for oats and \$1.33 for rye.

— Malting barley will not be exempt from the acreage limitation requirements established for the 1990 barley program.

— Barley and oats bases will be split for the 1990 crop. This action should increase the harvested acreage of oats.

— Oats will not be subject to the limited cross compliance provisions.

— There will not be a paid land diversion program.

Common program provisions that apply to the 1990 feed grains, wheat, upland cotton and rice programs were announced on Aug. 7.

Signup dates for the 1990 programs are Jan. 16 through April 13, 1990.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

#

## **FOOD STAMP BENEFITS, ELIGIBILITY LEVELS AND DEDUCTIONS TO INCREASE OCTOBER 1**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Starting Oct. 1, monthly food stamp benefits will be increased by about 10 percent, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today. At the same time, food stamp income eligibility levels will go up by about 4 percent, meaning a family can have more income and still qualify for food stamps.

Ann Chadwick, acting assistant secretary for food and consumer services, said, “The changes are a result of annual adjustments in the cost of living and include an additional increase mandated by the Hunger Prevention Act of 1988. These food stamp benefits are the highest on record.”

As a result of the increases, the maximum food stamp allotment for a family of four will increase from \$300 to \$331 a month. Gross income levels, which help determine eligibility for households which do not include an elderly or disabled member, will be raised from \$1,263 a month to \$1,311 a month for a family of four. Net income levels, used to determine eligibility and benefits for all households, will increase from \$971 to \$1,009 a month for a family of four.

Starting Oct. 1, households will also see an increase in the amount which may be deducted from their gross incomes to determine net

income. Standard deductions will increase from \$106 to \$112 per household. Shelter deductions will increase from a maximum of \$170 to a maximum \$177 a month per household. The maximum dependent care deduction will remain \$160 per dependent.

The following amounts are for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia\*:

#### New Monthly Food Stamp Allotments for Households With No Income

##### Household Size

1	\$ 99
2	182
3	260
4	331
5	393
6	472
7	521
8	596
Each additional member	+75

#### New Gross Monthly Income Limits Used to Determine Food Stamp Eligibility

##### Household Size

1	\$ 648
2	869
3	1090
4	1311
5	1532
6	1753
7	1974
8	2195
Each additional member	+221

New Monthly Income Limits Used to Calculate Food Stamp Benefits

Household Size

1	\$ 499
2	669
3	839
4	1009
5	1179
6	1349
7	1519
8	1689
Each additional member	+170

\*There will be corresponding increases in Alaska, Guam, Hawaii and the Virgin Islands.

Phil Stanholtzer (202) 756-3286

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SCS ESTIMATES DAMAGE TO STREAMS, WATERCOURSES FROM HURRICANE HUGO

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Special survey teams dispatched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service to South Carolina, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo estimate damage to the regions’ streams, drainageways, bridges and dams at nearly \$125 million, according to SCS Chief Wilson Scaling.

Scaling said that SCS is ready to provide technical help to local communities for cleaning up watercourses to safeguard lives and property from future flooding that might occur because of blocked watercourses or bridges that have been undermined by erosion.

“In some areas, the damage was so extensive with downed powerlines, closed roads and bridges and fuel shortages, it took several days for our employees to be able to get to the field,” Scaling said. “We airlifted two generators to the SCS field office in St. Croix and authorized purchase of a four-wheel drive vehicle just so our office could operate.”

South Carolina reported an estimated \$100 million in damages in 21 counties, which have a total of 2,385 miles of stream channel clogged

with sediment and debris. The on-going survey of damages to the stream systems in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands currently stands at \$5 million, but is expected to reach \$25 million when field surveys are completed and tallied. North Carolina reported \$300,000 in damages to streams in two counties.

Scaling said that SCS will prepare the needed plans and specifications to do the cleanup and repair work. The first of these contract packages will be ready for use by local communities next week. At this time, SCS only has funds available to provide technical assistance during this emergency. Congress has appropriated \$1.1 billion in disaster aid for Hurricane Hugo, which will go to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SCS activities are carried out under its emergency watershed protection program and are being coordinated with FEMA and other federal and local agencies. Requests for emergency cleanup efforts must be sponsored by a local entity of government such as a city, county, or conservation district.

Kathy Gugulis (202) 447-9149

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES MARKET STABILIZATION PRICE FOR SUGAR**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John Campbell today announced the fiscal 1990 market stabilization price for raw cane sugar will be 21.95 cents per pound, raw value. The new price is up slightly from the 1989 level of 21.80 cents per pound.

The market stabilization price represents the price at or above which producers would be more likely to sell their sugar in the marketplace than forfeit it to the Commodity Credit Corp. It also is used to calculate penalties and liabilities under quota-exempt sugar programs conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The new market stabilization price is the sum of the price support loan rate for raw cane sugar for fiscal 1990 (18 cents per pound), the adjusted average transportation costs for shipping raw cane sugar (3.04 cents per pound), interest costs of repaying a sugar price support loan at full maturity (.71 cent per pound) plus two-tenths of a cent per pound. The

procedure for calculating the market stabilization price is specified in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Maureen Quinn (202) 447-3448

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## GREEN PLANT ODORS HELP PUT THE BITE ON MAJOR INSECT PESTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Odors from green plants, when combined with insect attractants in traps, can more effectively lure three major insect pests to their deaths than the attractants used alone, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist reported today.

At least 50 percent more of the pests—cotton boll weevil, Mediterranean fruit fly and a beetle carrying Dutch elm disease—were attracted to the dual-baited traps in field or laboratory studies, said Joseph C. Dickens, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

He said the findings from a six-year study eventually may lead to less insecticide use. Plant leaf chemicals, the source of the odors, can be developed into environmentally safe, economic compounds that, in combination with attractants, may trap a wide range of insects, Dickens said.

“We mostly think of insects as being able to detect complex chemicals in plants,” he said. “But these are very simple compounds found in all green plants.”

Green leaf odors are comprised of six-carbon alcohols, aldehydes and acetates, Dickens said. They could replace at least one-half to two-thirds of the attractants—pheromones—needed to trap insects, he added. Some pheromones cost about \$10,000 a kilogram, while green leaf compounds are expected to run about \$10 to \$1000 a kilogram.

Insects are attracted to the green leaf odors because of the way in which they apparently enhance the original pheromone, according to the scientist.

“It's like ice cream—everybody likes it,” said Dickens at the agency's Boll Weevil Research Laboratory in Starkville, Miss. “But when you add chocolate syrup, people like it even more.”

Although it's not yet certain how the odors work with the pheromone, he said pheromone and green leaf odors are detected by separate groups

of nerve cells in the insect's nose. These cells send a message to the brain.

When the green leaf and pheromone signals are combined, Dickens said, a stronger message may be sent to the brain than that by the pheromone alone.

He said a six-week field test was carried out in Mississippi, where 50 boll weevil traps were baited with insect pheromone and 50 with pheromone and green leaf odors from the cotton plant. Of 3,095 weevils captured, 60.3 percent were attracted to the green leaf-pheromone blend but only 39.7 percent to the pheromone alone.

A similar four-week trial at the University of Maine in Orono, captured 423 smaller European bark beetles that transmit Dutch elm disease to elm trees in the Midwest and Northeast. The green leaf-pheromone blend trapped 40.8 percent and the pheromone trapped 14.9 percent. Other combinations attracted the remainder.

Mediterranean fruit fly tests were done in a laboratory wind tunnel at the agency's Tropical Fruit and Vegetable Research Laboratory in Hilo, Hawaii. The results were that an average of 20 flies landed on the green leaf-pheromone baits, nearly three times the number that landed on straight pheromone baits.

Of the three insects, the boll weevil is the major pest of cotton, costing growers over \$100 million annually. Growers spend about \$900,000 a year for pheromone in the South and Southeast to monitor population levels in efforts to eradicate the insect. Mediterranean fruit flies are a serious pest of oranges, grapefruit, peaches, plums and over 250 other cultivated and wild fruits.

Further tests are planned to check the effectiveness of green leafpheromone baits against Southern pine bark beetle and other insects, Dickens said.

Matt Bosisio (309) 685-4011

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES 1989-CROP PRICE SUPPORT LOAN RATES FOR SUGAR BEETS AND CANE**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—National (weighted average) price support loan rates for the 1989 crop of domestically grown sugar cane and sugar beets will be 18 cents per pound for raw cane sugar and 21.54 cents per

pound for refined beet sugar, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today.

Both rates will be adjusted to reflect the processing location and quality of the sugar. The regional loan rates and support levels were announced in a notice of determination Sept. 29 in the Federal Register.

The support level is the minimum amount that must be paid to growers by a processor participating in the price support loan program.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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## **USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON 1990 EXTRA LONG STAPLE COTTON PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comments on whether the Commodity Credit Corp. should establish an acreage reduction program for the 1990 extra long staple cotton (ELS) program and, if so, what the percentage of the reduction should be.

Comments are also sought on:

—Whether to redesignate for marketing year 1990 all counties designated as suitable for growing ELS cotton during marketing year 1989, and designate additional counties prior to the final date for enrolling in the ELS cotton program; and

—Additional program provisions including commodity eligibility, micronaire discounts and loan levels for the individual qualities of 1990 crop ELS cotton.

Decisions on the 1990 program provisions will be based on the comments received, the most current data on U.S. and world crop conditions, and the ELS cotton supply and demand outlook.

Details of the 1990 ELS cotton program were published today in the Federal Register.

Comments should be sent by Nov. 16 to: Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. The comments will be available for public inspection in Room 3760-S, USDA's South Building, 14th Street and Independence Ave., S.W., during normal business hours.

A preliminary regulatory impact analysis regarding the 1990 ELS cotton options may be obtained by writing to the same address or by calling (202) 447-6734.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-6787

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## **NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK SALUTES FOOD SERVICE WORKERS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—By presidential proclamation, the week of October 9-13 has been designated National School Lunch Week to recognize both the National School Lunch Program and the employees who provide meals to over 23 million children each school day in over 90,000 schools.

“Many people don’t realize it, but the school lunch program, administered nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is one of the largest food service operations in the nation, including the major fast food chains,” said Ann Chadwick, acting assistant secretary of agriculture for Food and Consumer Services.

“The school lunch program has made tremendous strides in the last several years. With increased emphasis on nutrition for our young people, we are not only feeding America’s school children a quality lunch but teaching them about proper nutrition and good eating habits,” Chadwick said.

The National School Lunch Program, administered by USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, provides some \$4 billion annually in cash and commodities to participating schools.

Donated commodities make up about 20 percent of the food used in the lunch program. USDA provides schools with more than 60 different kinds of food, including ground beef, chicken, turkey, canned fruits, vegetables, vegetable oil and flour.

“Substantial improvements have been made in the quality of commodities. For example, the fat content of ground beef has been lowered, as well as sodium levels in prepared foods, and only canned fruits in light syrup or natural juices are purchased. By providing high quality surplus foods to schools, USDA supports America’s farmers while serving the best interests of America’s school children,” said Chadwick.

Schools that choose to take part in the lunch program must meet federal meal pattern requirements and offer free or reduced price lunches to eligible children. Nationwide, about half of the lunches are served free of charge or at a reduced price. Any public school of high school grade level or under is eligible to participate, as is any nonprofit private school.

Chadwick said the National School Lunch Program became a federal program in 1946 and has developed as one of the best examples of federal-state-local cooperation operating in the nation today.

Gene Vincent (703) 756-3286

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## COMPUTER TO TAKE LARGER LOOK AT FARM IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers are increasing the ways a computer model can forecast the impact of various farming practices on the land and water.

A new model, called ALMANAC, is expected to be completed in two to three years, according to USDA hydraulic engineer Jimmy R. Williams. It will take into account elements such as weeds and farming multiple crops.

Williams said ALMANAC will be a more comprehensive model of its predecessor, called EPIC. It simulates natural processes on the land to help estimate crop yields, soil erosion, fertilizer losses, the status of soil and water and other details. EPIC—Erosion-Productivity Impact Calculator—is being widely used by USDA's Soil Conservation Service, universities and researchers.

Williams said that EPIC has been used to look at the impact of farming practices on land and water as far as 1,000 years into the future. He is based at the Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at Temple, Texas.

ALMANAC's expanded role is reported in an article in the current issue of Agricultural Research magazine on computer models useful in helping save the nation's natural resources. Other systems include a peanut production model at the ARS National Peanut Research

Laboratory at Dawson, Ga., and a model at the Temple lab that calculates movement of materials such as fertilizer and sediments over areas of up to several hundred square miles.

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

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## **SHELLAC FOR A CALCIUM COMPOUND COULD CUT FERTILIZER LOSS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4—Giving calcium carbide a shellacking—literally—could reduce nitrogen fertilizer waste, help protect the earth's ozone layer and even lower the risk of groundwater pollution, according to a researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“About 10 to 40 percent of the nitrogen fertilizer that farmers put on crops escapes into the air or is carried by water below the reach of plant roots,” said chemist Arvin R. Mosier of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins, Colo. “In North America, these losses total as much as 2 million tons annually.”

Mosier, and Nimai K. Banerjee, a chemist from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi, are patenting a way to coat calcium carbide crystals with shellac.

The coated crystals slow a natural process called nitrification, said Mosier, of the ARS Soil-Plant Nutrient Research Unit in Fort Collins. In this process, soil microorganisms convert ammonium nitrogen fertilizers into nitrate, a form of inorganic nitrogen that plants can use.

If, however, nitrification proceeds faster than plants can consume the nitrate, fertilizer losses can occur in two ways. Water can leach excess nitrate downwards, below the root zone and potentially into ground water, and soil microorganisms can convert some nitrate to nitrous oxide gas, which rises into the atmosphere, he said.

“But when applied with fertilizer, shellac-coated calcium carbide pellets will slowly—over two to three weeks—react with moisture in the soil,” he said. “The reaction produces acetylene gas, which inhibits nitrification. Uncoated calcium carbide produces acetylene too but is used up in a few hours.

“For the new method to work commercially, we need to work with industry to find better ways to formulate and apply the shellac coating. We know that kind of expertise is out there.”

Other nitrification inhibitors are commercially available. But, unlike shellac-coated calcium carbide, they do not work on flooded fields or in soils with high organic matter, Mosier said. Also, most of the commercial inhibitors are prohibitively expensive.

Mosier said preliminary studies with the shellacked compound suggest an application rate of about 20 pounds per acre, with the cost running about one-tenth the value of the fertilizer that would be saved.

According to incomplete findings of tests now in progress with corn, shellacked calcium carbide may reduce the amount of nitrous oxide gas wafting upwards from the soil and possibly damaging earth's atmosphere, Mosier said. This "greenhouse gas" has been blamed in many scientific studies for contributing to global warming and to the thinning of the ozone layer, which shields earth's inhabitants from excess ultraviolet radiation by solar rays.

He is also conducting studies to see if the method results in less movement of nitrate—a potential water pollutant—below the root zone of plants. Results aren't expected for several months.

Tests with the new nitrification inhibitor are also being conducted with wheat in Australia and rice in India, Mosier said.

Scientists have known since the 1970's that acetylene can inhibit nitrification, he noted.

And they've known for many decades that calcium carbide and water produce acetylene: it's the principle on which turn-of-the-century miners' helmet lamps operated.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

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## **FARMER COOPERATIVE BUSINESS VOLUME AND NET INCOME UP IN 1988**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4—U.S. farmer cooperatives experienced one of their better business years in 1988, with sales at their highest since 1984 and net income at the third highest level in history, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Cooperative Service.

ACS reported today that in 1988, combined business volume for cooperatives was \$66.3 billion, or 10.3 percent above the previous year's \$60.2 billion. The record high was \$73.0 billion in 1984.

Net income was nearly \$1.7 billion, 13.4 percent better than last year's

\$1.5 billion. The 1988 amount was exceeded only by \$1.9 billion in 1980 and \$1.8 billion in 1976.

Randall E. Torgerson, ACS administrator, attributed the higher business volume primarily to increased prices for grains, oil-bearing crops, and feed resulting from the drought and lower production in 1988. Production of feed grains and soybeans were down significantly.

Total cooperative business volume includes marketing (the value of products sold), farm supplies (sales of fertilizer, chemicals, fuels, feed and other supplies to members and patrons), and receipts from services such as trucking, storage, ginning, and drying.

The number of cooperatives and cooperative memberships, however, continued a long downward trend in 1988.

Torgerson said the number of cooperatives dropped from 5,109 to 4,939, primarily the result of cooperatives reorganizing through mergers, consolidations and acquisitions.

Memberships totaled 4.19 million, down 5.6 percent from the previous year. The number of memberships is larger than the number of farms because many farmers belong to more than one cooperative.

Memberships per association averaged 848 in 1988, compared with 869 in 1987.

Net income of marketing cooperatives increased 10.6 percent. Among marketing cooperatives, the largest percentage increases in net income from 1987 to 1988 were by sugar, grain, and dairy cooperatives. Farm supply cooperatives increased net margins 23.4 percent. Net income of selected service cooperatives was down 1.5 percent.

Combined assets of farmer cooperatives totaled \$29.2 billion, a 5.6 percent increase over the \$27.6 billion in 1987. Total liabilities of \$16.4 billion were up 10.5 percent. Net worth of \$12.8 billion was about the same as last year's.

Marketing volume was \$49.0 billion, up 11.3 percent. Dairy was the leading farm product with sales of \$17.8 billion, 36.3 percent of total cooperative marketings. Grain and soybean sales increased 23.6 percent to \$12.4 billion. This increase of nearly \$2.4 billion in sales over 1987 is attributed to lower production and higher prices of feed grains and soybeans in 1988.

Other products, grain and soybeans, and cotton showed the largest percentage increases in business volume. The largest decreases were in nuts and rice.

Farm supply volume of \$15.4 billion was up 8.2 percent. Increased

prices for feed and fertilizer were a major factor. Feed sales were up \$818 million or 27.4 percent. Fertilizer sales were up 8.8 percent. Sales of building materials, containers, farm machinery and equipment, meats and groceries, and other supplies were down. Services such as trucking, cotton ginning, and storage rose 2.6 percent to \$1.94 billion.

**Table 1—Cooperative Business Volume, 1987 and 1988<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity or Function	Business Volume <sup>2</sup>	
	1987 <sup>3</sup>	1988
Million dollars		
Products marketed:		
Cotton	1,543	1,876
Dairy	16,371	17,778
Fruits and vegetables	6,128	6,619
Grain and soybeans	10,059	12,429
Livestock and poultry	4,305	4,348
Nuts	941	794
Rice	848	788
Sugar	1,714	1,871
Other <sup>4</sup>	2,085	2,464
Total	43,993	48,967
Supplies purchased:		
Farm chemicals	1,291	1,337
Feed	2,987	3,805
Fertilizer	2,732	2,973
Petroleum	4,175	4,407
Seed	577	540
Building materials, containers, farm machinery machinery and equipment, and meats and groceries	986	930
Other supplies	1,523	1,451
Total farm supplies	14,271	15,442
Selected services: trucking, cotton ginning, storage, grinding, locker plants, and other	1,891	1,939
TOTAL	60,155	66,348

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. <sup>2</sup>Volume excludes intercooperative business. <sup>3</sup>Revised. <sup>4</sup>Includes dry edible beans and peas, tobacco, wool, and other miscellaneous products.

**Table 2—Farmer Cooperatives' Net Income, 1987 and 1988<sup>1</sup>**

Cooperative Type	Total Net Income <sup>2</sup>	
	1987 <sup>3</sup>	1988
	Million dollars	
Cotton	236.6	167.5
Dairy	201.5	269.4
Fruits and vegetables	158.0	183.3
Grain and soybeans	369.9	509.0
Livestock and poultry	118.3	53.1
Rice	4.7	5.2
Sugar	5.6	19.3
Other <sup>3</sup>	14.1	19.5
Marketing	1,108.7	
	1,226.3	
Farm supply	351.3	433.5
Selected service	26.1	25.7
TOTAL	1,486.2	
	1,685.5	

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. <sup>2</sup>Net income less losses. <sup>3</sup>Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

**Table 3—Farmer Cooperative Numbers and Memberships, 1988<sup>1</sup>**

Cooperative Type	Cooperatives <sup>2</sup>	Memberships
	Number	
Cotton	361	93,195
Dairy	287	136,585
Fruits and vegetables	302	51,650
Grain and soybeans	1,484	890,054
Livestock and poultry	243	333,307
Rice	48	23,988
Sugar products	37	8,674
Other <sup>3</sup>	228	378,523
Marketing	2,990	1,915,976
Farm supply	1,836	2,142,494
Selected service	113	131,280
TOTAL	4,939	4,189,750

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. <sup>2</sup>Many cooperatives are multiproduct and multifunctional in operations and are classified according to predominant commodity or function indicated by business volume. <sup>3</sup>Other includes beans and peas (dry edible), nuts, tobacco, wool, and miscellaneous.

Gene Ingalsbe (202) 653-6973

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**MEAT IMPORTS NOT EXPECTED TO TRIGGER RESTRAINTS  
IN 1989**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced that the fourth-quarter estimate of U.S. meat imports for calendar year 1989 is below the level that would require quotas or restraints on imports under the Meat Import Act of 1979.

Crowder said that based on U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates of available supplies and marketing plans by major meat exporters, imports of beef and other meats subject to the act during 1989 should total 1,160 million pounds—about 209 million pounds below the 1989

trigger level of 1369.8 million pounds. As a result, import restrictions are not required for 1989.

Meat imports through August 1989 were about 27 percent below the same period in 1988, due mainly to a 240-million-pound reduction (41 percent) in imports from Australia, according to Crowder. Australian exporters have expanded their shipments to Japan since that country relaxed its meat import quotas in 1988, he said.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the president to consider restrictions on imports of certain meat items—primarily beef and veal—if a USDA quarterly estimate of meat imports equals or exceeds the trigger level determined by formula in the act.

Imports of Meat Subject to the Law

	1986	1987	1988	1989 <sup>1</sup>
		(millions of pounds)		
January	77.7	44.4	135.6	74.5
February	102.2	138.2	112.3	80.3
March	83.2	84.9	144.8	88.5
April	70.8	146.0	146.6	97.1
May	72.1	103.4	134.7	104.0
June	148.4	135.4	142.7	103.4
July	122.1	181.5	124.4	114.6
August	144.0	137.4	123.0	111.0
September	167.4	158.0	140.4	
October	119.8	153.8	118.7	
November	102.4	86.6	114.2	
December	129.2	90.1	84.9	
Total <sup>2</sup>	1,339.3	1,459.7	1,521.3	

<sup>1</sup>Imports from Canada are excluded as a result of the signing of the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Implementation Act of 1988.

<sup>2</sup>Totals may not add due to rounding.

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